

C A M P A I G N F O R
ACCOUNTABILITY

August 17, 2018

By email: PRI@odh.ohio.gov

Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Information and Operation Support
246 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Public Information Act Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to the Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA seeks any and all records related to the Department of Health’s (“Department”) Choose Life Fund, which is administered by the Bureau of Maternal, Child and Family Health. This includes, but is not limited to, any communications, documents, applications, grant awards, contracts or reports related to the Choose Life Fund, any communications to, from, or between any member of the Bureau of Maternal, Child, and Family Health and any member or representative of any recipient organization, and any guidelines or instructions regarding how program funds are distributed. This request also includes all records regarding the amount of money and recipients of funds distributed by under the Choose Life program.

This request is for records from January 1, 2015 to the present.

By way of background, in 2005, Gov. Bob Taft approved the creation of a Choose Life license plate.¹ Revenue from Choose Life license plates are distributed to the State Treasurer to reserve for the Choose Life Fund.² On an annual basis, the director of the Department allocates funds to any nonprofit organization that applies and is eligible.³

CfA seeks records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs. This request includes any letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. This request also includes any attachments to these records.

¹ Taft Oks ‘Choose Life’ License Plate, *The Blade*, February 16, 2005.

² Ohio Rev. Code § 4503.74 (C)(1).

³ Ohio Rev. Code § 3701.65.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(1), please explain in writing and with particularity the reasons for any determination that a record is exempt from disclosure. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(3). In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record. If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(3).

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200. Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(1).

Please promptly produce the requested information, or pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(1), please provide the requested records within a reasonable period of time, or furnish a written acknowledgment of receipt of our request and the approximate date when the request will be granted or denied, as well as when we can reasonably expect to receive the responsive documents. If you foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Department to process it. If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave, SE #337 Washington, D.C. 20003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel E.

Stevens

Executive Director